

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated April 6, 2004.

Applicants appreciate the careful consideration and favorable treatment of the claims in which claims 38-46 were allowed and claims 7-17 and 19-36 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

Claim 7 has been amended to substantially include the subject matter of claim 2 and based on the Examiner's comments, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 7, as amended, should be allowed since at least the pinch valve element is lacking, in combination with the other components, is lacking in the prior art.

Claims 3-4, 8-11 and 49 should be allowed as depending from what should now be an allowed claim 7.

Claim 12 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 2 and based on the Examiner's comments that claim 12 contains allowable subject matter, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 12, as amended, should be allowed.

Claim 13 should be allowed as depending from what should now be an allowed claim 12.

Claim 14 has been amended to include the subject matter of claims 2 and 3 and based on the Examiner's comments that claim 14 contains allowable subject matter, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 14, as amended, should be allowed.

Claims 15-17 should be allowed as depending from what should now be an allowed claim 14.

Claim 31 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 2 and based on the Examiner's comments that claim 31 contains allowable subject matter, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 31, as amended, should be allowed.

Claim 33 should be allowed as depending from what should be an allowed independent claim 31.

Claim 32 has been amended to include the subject matter of claims 2 and 3 and based on the Examiner's comments that claim 32 contains allowable subject matter, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 32, as amended, should be allowed.

Claim 34 should be allowed as depending from what should now be an allowed claim 32.

Claim 35 has been amended to include the subject matter of claims 2 and 3 and based on the Examiner's comments that claim 35 contains allowable subject matter, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 35, as amended, should be allowed.

Claim 36 should be allowed as depending from what should now be an allowed claim 35.

Claims 38-46 stand allowed.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Dated: February 15, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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